

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (original): Arrangement for the acceptance or return of objects (9) for which a deposit has been paid or can be paid and/or of objects (9) pertaining to a lending system, at least provided with an at least readable identification code, characterized by

- an acceptance zone (1) for the intake or positioning of the object (9) to be accepted,
- a reading device (2) in order to ascertain the association of the object with a specific deposit or a lending system,
- a transporting device (3) which is operationally connected with the reading device such that, after the object's association has been positively ascertained, it is transported further, as well as
- at least one blocking member (4, 27) through which, upon positive ascertainment by the reading device, the object is transported.

Claim 2 (currently amended): Arrangement as claimed in claim [[1]] 5, characterized in that at the blocking member (4, 27) means are provided, such as a latching element, automatic closing means or the like, in order to at least impede the backward movement of the object after its passage.

Claim 3 (currently amended): Arrangement as claimed in claim [[1]] 5, characterized in that at the blocking member (4, 27) monitoring means (15), such as light barriers, pressure transducers, position sensors, etc., are provided in order to control the blocking member (4, 27) and to detect the backward movement of the object.

Claim 4 (currently amended): Arrangement as claimed in claim [[1]] 5, characterized in that the at least one blocking member (4, 27) comprises a swivel element, whose swivel action can only be actuated in the direction of transport and not in the opposite transport direction.

Claim 5 (previously presented): Arrangement as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that further an identification sensor (5) is provided in order to identify the accepted object (9) and, in the case of a redeemable object, to acquire the appropriate amount of redemption or, in the case of a lending system, to register the acceptance of the object and optionally the object itself.

Claim 6 (original): Arrangement as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the identification sensor and the reading device are identical or are accommodated in one and the same structural component.

Claim 7 (currently amended): Arrangement as claimed in claim [[1]] 5, characterized in that the reading device (2) is disposed, in the direction of transport of the transporting device, in front of the blocking member (4) and the identification sensor (5), succeeding the blocking member.

Claim 8 (currently amended): Arrangement as claimed in claim [[1]] 5, characterized in that the ~~monitoring means~~ sensor (15) in the proximity of the blocking member (4) comprises at least one position sensor, such as a light barrier or a pressure

transducer, etc., which indicates whether or not an object is located in the proximity of the blocking member, and which optionally detects further whether the object has stopped or is moved backward.

Claim 9 (currently amended): Arrangement as claimed in claim [[1]] 5, characterized in that the identification sensor (5) includes additionally a writing device in order to change optionally data on a rewritable code or label, such as an RFID tag disposed on an object, and/or to transmit data to this code or label.

Claim 10 (currently amended): Arrangement as claimed in claim [[1]] 5, characterized in that the reading device (2) and the identification sensor (5), or optionally the writing device, read/acquire or transmit data in the radio frequency range.

Claim 11 (currently amended): Arrangement as claimed in claim [[1]] 5, characterized in that in the proximity of the identification sensor (5) or, optionally succeeding in the direction of transport, a discharge zone for the identified or registered object is provided, in which discharge zone at least one further position sensor (11) is provided in order to detect the discharge of the object to a succeeding site or to ascertain a backward movement of an object.

Claim 12 (original): Arrangement as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that in the discharge zone a further blocking member (74) is provided in order to detect or prevent a backward movement of the object.

Claim 13 (previously presented): Arrangement as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that in the discharge zone a cutting instrument (32) is provided which, during the transport of an object in the direction of the transporting device, can be folded or swiveled away and, in the event the object is transported in the opposite direction, is activatable for example by means of a spring, in order to sever removal aids, such as strings, cords and the like, employed to transport the object in the opposite direction.

Claim 14 (currently amended): Arrangement as claimed in claim [[1]] 5, characterized in that an alarm signaling device is provided which is activatable in the event of improper use of the arrangement.

Claim 15 (currently amended): Arrangement as claimed in claim [[1]] 5, characterized in that at least two blocking members (4, 74) are provided which are operationally connected with one another such that, in the manner of a lock, one of the two blocking members is always latched or is closed to the passage of an object.

Claim 16 (currently amended): Arrangement as claimed in claim [[1]] 5, characterized in that in the acceptance zone for the intake or positioning of the object (9) to be accepted an additional blocking member (34) is provided, and in the proximity of the reading device (2) and optionally of the identification sensor (5), respectively, a downwardly swivelable base (27), such as for example a swivelable slide, is provided which is implemented such that, upon a positive ascertainment by the reading device, it can be unlatched and swiveled downwardly.

Claim 17 (original): Arrangement as claimed in claim 16, characterized in that the additional blocking member (34) disposed in the acceptance zone is operationally connected with the downwardly swivelable base such that, when the base is folded down, the further blocking member is closed or latched.

Claim 18 (currently amended): Arrangement as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 5, characterized in that the arrangement comprises a lock-like chamber (46), into which the object (9) to be detected can be placed and in which the object can be identified by means of the reading device (2), and that at the lock-like chamber (46) at least two reclosable chamber walls or blocking members (44, 47) are disposed, which are operationally connected with one another such that at least one blocking member is always closed, and that upon a positive ascertainment or recognition of the object by the reading device (2) the blocking member (47) succeeding the lock-like chamber (46) can be unlatched in order to make possible the further transport of the object (9), which optionally can be identified by the identification sensor (5).

Claim 19 (currently amended): Arrangement as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 5, characterized in that adjoining the acceptance zone (1) a sorting device is provided comprising one or several sorting units (51, 53, 55) in order to sort the accepted objects.

Claim 20 (original): Arrangement as claimed in claim 19, characterized in that the sorting facility comprises sorting units (51, 53, 55) largely operating autonomously, each comprising a transporting belt (63), preferably each driven by a driving motor (65), with at

least one sensor being assigned to each sorting zone for acquiring the object and optionally its position, and preferably each sensor and/or a sorting unit control being electrically and/or logically, optionally wirelessly, for example by means of WLAN (Wireless Local Area Network), connected at least with the acceptance arrangement or with its one reading device (2) and/or an identification sensor (5).

Claim 21 (previously presented): Arrangement as claimed in claim 19, characterized in that preferably each sorting unit is provided with an RFID reader or interrogator and/or with at least one light sensor and/or one position encoder disposed on the particular driving motor of each sorting unit.

Claim 22 (previously presented): Arrangement as claimed in claim 19, characterized in that each sorting unit comprises at least one so-called tilt sorter unit, which, in the case of several units, are arrayed in series one after the other, i.e. placed in succession.

Claim 23 (original): Arrangement as claimed in claim 22, characterized in that at each tilt sorter the particular conveyor belt, viewed in the direction of transport, is swivelable either to the left or to the right, such that an object disposed on the conveyor belt can be swiveled either to the left or the right, for example into a container or a receptacle (52, 52').

Claim 24 (previously presented): Arrangement as claimed in claim 22,

characterized in that the driving motor (65) of the particular conveyor belt (23) of each tilt sorter, as well as also a tilt motor (27) provided for tipping, are each provided or connected with a position encoder, in order to be able to acquire the position of the object on the belt and the particular swivel angle or reset angle to be selected, in order to swivel the conveyor belt back into the starting position.

Claim 25 (previously presented): Arrangement as claimed in claim 19, characterized in that in the acceptance zone (1), in addition to the reading device (2), an optical waveguide (11) and a position encoder are disposed at the transporting device (3) for acquiring the length of the returned object in order to transfer the measured length to a control at the particular sorting unit for the sorting or tilting in the correct position of the accepted object.

Claim 26 (previously presented): Arrangement as claimed in claim 19, characterized in that the sorting units (51, 53, 55) are logically and/or electronically connected with one another and with the acceptance arrangement, and consequently with the reading device (2), and the connection can take place by means of a CAN bus.

Claim 27 (currently amended): Arrangement as claimed in claim [[1]] 5, characterized in that the acceptance arrangement, and consequently functionally also the sorting units, are provided with an external data base or a local data base, on which are stored the data relevant for the arrangement or acceptance station and/or those of lent or released objects.

Claims 28-36 (canceled)